

**CENTRAL MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2013
LEWISTOWN FIELD OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM
LEWISTOWN, MONTANA**

Three members of the Resource Advisory Council were not in attendance: Dan Kluck, Jason Birdwell and Nick Schultz.

Chairman Clive Rooney opened the meeting on a somber note with the announcement of the passing of fellow RAC Member, Jon "Kris" Moser. A card will be circulated for members to sign.

Kaylene will be leaving as facilitator of the RAC and Jonathan Moor, Public Affairs Specialist for the Lewistown District, will take over this role.

Jamie Connell, Montana/Dakotas State Director, was in attendance and was introduced to the Council by Lewistown District Manager, Stan Benes.

Clive went over the proposed agenda for this gathering of the Council. Aart Dolman moved to accept the agenda. It was asked if the field trip would still occur regardless of the rain. The field trip will still take place, but will stay on more pavement than planned, so the group may not get the full prospective.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Knox of Winifred, Montana spoke to the RAC regarding sage grouse. He asked that we keep in mind that we have a stable sage grouse population, so cattle grazing isn't affected. He fears that cattle operations will be harmed by a rush to protect sage grouse.

Beth Kampschror, Executive Director of Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument, is working on a volunteer program. Volunteer numbers have tripled recently. She invited everyone to James Kipp Campground on September 28th for a campground cleanup.

Beth continued by stating BLM will be prioritizing exclosures on the river during 2014. The "Friends" fully support this. She felt it would be good to work together to complete some fencing. Ron Poertner asked if fences are to keep cows out of the campgrounds? "Yes." Dana Darlington asked if the campground would be mowed? Beth said "Probably, and we'll plan for follow up to figure out how to manage it." Clive suggested putting a gate in to let cows in to mow it! ☺

STATE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Before State Director, Jamie Connell, gave her update, introductions were made with RAC members stating their name and which category they were representing on the council. Jamie explained that she had been the Montana/Dakotas Director for approximately 2 ½ years. She continued by describing her previous job experience and how very glad she is to be back in Montana. Jamie has recently returned to the state after spending nearly six months in Washington, DC as the Acting Deputy Director of Operations.

Ron Poertner asked if there is any shift in direction from Secretary Salazar to Secretary Jewell? Jamie replied, with a no, but the budget has shifted and that could affect things. Jewell was a petroleum engineer, then a banker specializing in Natural Resource loans, before becoming the CEO of REI. Jamie appreciates the businesswoman side of Secretary Jewell. BLM "MAKES money."

Stan Benes asked, "How will sequestration affect our services?" Jamie expressed that right now everything would be a guess. We could possibly be looking at a 6-7% decrease in budget. We probably won't be able to fill all positions. Cost recovery is an important direction to help bring in money and is a direction we may be going.

Jim McCollum commented that he had attended a Forest Service meeting in Great Falls the previous evening. They had a 5% cut last year and are looking at 8% this year. Jamie offered that this was similar to ours. Jim continued, they are looking at ways to save dollars, even in the Fire program.

Aart Dolman stated that sequestration is a political issue and Montana struggles with that. If we increase fees, we get problems from industry. Aart questioned if we have any "vacancy savings?" Jamie explained that we use lapsed work months and that is how we are able to fund our seasonal work force.

Dana Darlington inquired if BLM funds go into a big pool? Do grazing funds stay in our area? Mark Albers, District Manager for the Hi-Line District, explained that these 8100/8200 dollars can only be used a certain way and not for work months.

Jamie discussed the importance of "show casing" the Montana/Dakotas BLM to show the public how well we are managing things. We are in a situation of trying to compete for available dollars.

Clive Rooney questioned if we can take these projected cuts without laying people off? Jamie replied that we had put a plan in place to cut 5% every year and we are implementing that plan. We can currently absorb the cuts if it's not any bigger than that.

Ron Poertner expressed that he had attended a Doc Hastings seminar in Billings on sage grouse and concern on endangered species issues. He inquired from Jamie, if she thought with all the work we're doing, do we have a reasonable chance to keep sage grouse off the list? She offered yes, there is a good chance. It seems to have support from Washington Office Fish & Wildlife Service.

Dave Reinhardt said a flag went up for him when discussing budget. Is it that there is not a problem with getting funding, but that Washington Office is not seeing that money is getting used where it should and for what it's intended, i.e. oil & gas royalties? Jamie replied that we had record setting oil & gas leasing sales, but the money gets divided up.

Clive Rooney commented that the State funds itself through trust lands, which is better than being funded by the general fund.

Ron Poertner asked Jamie's stand on free-roaming buffalo & bison re-establishment? Jamie responded, "Not anything. BLM isn't interested in or involved in this, other than they are treated as livestock."

Stan Benes questioned Jamie as to how the Resource Advisory Council organization is looked at. She replied that they are extremely important. Recruitment issues have been a problem and it was frowned upon to re-recruit time & again. She stated that some percentage of long term members is important and encouraged members to stay involved. In reference to that, Clive said he sent a questionnaire out to all the members.

Ron Poertner questioned Jamie, "Do you think the 'Grasslands National Monument' will go anywhere?" Jamie stated that she heard nothing about it in DC.

Clive Rooney asked Jamie's schedule, if she'd be around for the rest of the day. She said she would be leaving and on to Great Falls as part of her office visits.

Clive asked for a motion on meeting minutes from January. Aart Dolman and Dana Darlington made motions to accept them as written. Meeting notes from the May meeting were approved as written.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

A copy of the 2013 Second Half edition of "Range News Roundup" was distributed to RAC members. This joint publication, between Lewistown Field Office and Missouri River Breaks National Monument, is sent out to permittees highlighting & updating the public on work being accomplished by the BLM in the local area.

ROUNDTABLE

Dana Darlington – Everything has been quiet. Kaylene asked how the floating season went. Dana replied that everything had gone well.

Ralph Knapp – Mentioned concerns about fracking and drilling on the Front. None currently on BLM land.

Dave Reinhardt – Pretty quiet. Questions still arise on the buffalo issue. Glasgow has a new BLM Manager, Pat Gunderson, as well as a new Fish, Wildlife & Parks Manager.

Mary Jones – Discussed work on Maiden Trail. Interested in naming a trail in memory of Jon "Kris" Moser up on the Limekiln project; wants to address at a future meeting.

Jim McCollum – The Sweet Grass Hills outfitter permit request is getting lots of interest & lots of opposition to authorizing it. No one has anything good to say in regard to the prospect of looking at approving it. People want to hear more about that. Mark Albers stated that he would address this issue in his District Manager Update tomorrow.

Jim had questions on the Buffalo Wallow abandonment and where that stands. Stan Benes stated that he would address this issue in his District Manager Update tomorrow.

The prospect of the Little Rockies "notch" being considered for removal from public domain is an issue being discussed. There is no opposition to state land going out because there's no access anyway.

Aart Dolman – Echoes Jim on the "notch" subject.

Aart was floating in the Monument at Eagle Creek in August. A group from Bozeman was there and complained that someone was using a motorboat. He checked into it and found that it was a "no wake" area, so the boat was legal. There are still concerns about motorboat use. Aart thanked Mark & Stan for their prompt replies when he contacted them questioning the motorboat use.

Aart will be attending an infrastructure oil wells & coal hearing in Washington State. He stated that the US needs to modernize our railroads with electric engines, high speed rail, etc.

Aart informed the group of the planned Great Falls refinery expansion. According to Aart, it is expected to double in size. There are worries that it will impact the river (Monument) with possibility of oil spills, etc.

Hugo Tureck – Hugo appreciated Jim talking about the Sweet Grass Hills outfitter request. Hugo said he talked with Stanley Jaynes, Havre Field Office Manager, and found that West Butte has an outfitter and it's pretty much privatized. Hugo is on the State Board of Outfitters and access is a continuing subject.

We are seeing fragmentation of landscapes and lack of planning around sub-divisions. We need to look at this fragmentation of landscapes and public lands. He will probably have more comments after hunting season.

Ron Poertner – Winifred celebrated their centennial in July. There seems to be a return of young people coming back to the community. Ron complimented the newsletter that was handed out. He suggested the need to talk about controversial issues as well. Sage grouse issue – endangered species concerns are on the radar for the next few years. Staffers he's heard from would guess the listing could at least go to "threatened" status.

Clive Rooney – Arrow Creek water rights and existing water rights is a topic of interest. Three people had objections from BLM. Old water rights should be filed – considered a paperwork update. The Compact is unrelated to water rights updates. Advise landowners to check your water rights.

Dana Darlington – Water is going to continue to be a big issue for the next several years.

Clive Rooney, continued – He has been attending State Sage Grouse Meetings in Helena. Most affected areas seem to be focused on roads & infrastructure and oil & gas, with a lesser affect to ranching.

Jim McCollum – It appears to be a lot of people protecting their turf, rather than coming to a consensus. Looks like they're using Wyoming Executive Order regulation to construct – sagebrush habitat management.

Wayne Fairchild (not present) – His concerns were voiced earlier in the day as he had to leave. His concerns were when the Coal Banks Construction would take place and Bullwhacker road access.

SAGEGROUSE UPDATE

Ron Poertner – What is the overall mission of the State Sage Grouse team? Clive replied that the intent is to development a management plan for what Fish & Wildlife Service considers. Regulatory certainty we will do.

Dan Brunkhorst, Planning & Environmental Coordinator for the Lewistown District, gave a power point presentation regarding the status update to the Sage Grouse Plan. Dan touched on the priority planning area of habitat, partners involved, scoping key issues, baseline environmental & conservation objectives, 34 cooperators involved (i.e. FS, NRCS, CSGD, etc.), and the 4 alternatives. They are: A-No Action, B-NTT (Natl. technical Team) Measures, C-Citizen Proposed and D-Sub-Regional.

Ron Poertner questioned the NTT suggestion to eliminate grazing privileges in some instances. Geoff Beyersdorf, Central Montana District Manager, answered that the NTT and others worked together to find common ground regarding elimination of grazing on retired allotments. NTT recommendations were used together with local needs and circumstances.

Dave Reinhardt asked if gravel would come under the "solid minerals" section? Dan said, "Yes, it is included in all alternatives."

Summary: completed since January 2013, 75% draft reviewed, 100% draft for local, state & cooperators, Regional – IDT, Regional, Natl. Policy, Washington Office 7 Director briefing. Expecting draft ready by end of September, Draft 90 day – October 18th, Final ROD late summer 2014.

Mary Jones inquired as to whether or not there is someplace that acres are considered ideal for sage grouse...where there are sage grouse now? Dan replied that we are currently inventorying acres to get that information.

Ron Poertner questioned if the plans will be implemented by 2014? Will agencies have to go back and redo plans if sage grouse are listed?

Geoff Beyersdorf answered, "The Fish & Wildlife Service will have to come up with a management plan and list specific areas." Adam Carr, Natural Resource Specialist for the Central Montana District, continued by saying we've had input. If listed, we wouldn't do another plan. We'd use adopted management included in the plan.

Jim McCollum asked if this plan will maintain or increase sage grouse populations. Mechanics are in place to maintain, but there is so much land BLM doesn't control. We'll work with partners, but will do our part. Have numbers of sage grouse increased or decreased in Montana? Clive answered that overall they have decreased in the state. Mark Albers stated they have increased north of the river. Adam explained that there are various ideas as to the cause. We are looking at what we can address on BLM only. We manage habitat....not birds.

Ralph Knapp asked if there was a prototype area where it's working well? It's working well here – what's making that work? Where are they thriving and how is it being managed?

Mark Albers replied that it's very site specific. Wyoming came up with what they thought worked. It's different from one county to the next.

Dana Darlington said he hasn't been involved in this, but do hawks and eagles play a part in this? Have more predator numbers been addressed?

Adam answered that we manage habitat only. Fish & Wildlife Service will have to address this. They discussed it, but it falls on the state and competing laws.

LEWISTOWN RMP UPDATE

The Lewistown RMP was in need of revision to include sage grouse planning, as well as consolidating the old plans (JVP-1994 & Headwaters-1984), to make field boundary changes, add special designations, include new listings/de-listings, address fluid mineral activity, changes in land tenure, address change to rural urban interface, and add new policy and guidance. Key milestones, schedule and current status of the plan were explained.

Ron Poertner questioned use of coordinating agencies vs. cooperating agencies. BLM just coordinates with cooperating agencies, per regulations for early and significant cooperation.

Analysis of management situation, anticipated planning issues, Central Montana RAC benefits & responsibilities were discussed. Geoff Beyersdorf asked RAC for their involvement in the RMP. It was taken under advisement until the next day.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Kelly McGill, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Central Montana District, gave a presentation on Visual Resource Management explaining that it is an orderly way to observe the public lands. It is a BLM visual system about minimizing visual contrasts. Our choices have the potential to affect visitor community

quality of life. Discussion items included protecting scenic values, 1969 NEPA, scenic quality, sensitivity levels and distance zones.

LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Chris Howard, who is an intern with Student Conservation Association, introduced information regarding lands with wilderness characteristics. The legal requirement is found in FLPMA, Sec 201(a). One popular misconception is “wilderness is not part of ‘multiple use’.”

Wilderness characteristics include: size, apparent naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or other primitive recreation, and other supplemental values. The inventory describes what **is**, **not** what **should** be, **not** what **might** be. The boundary of an inventory area is set by roads, change in ownership, developed ROWs or leases, rivers, trails.

What is a road? Anything constructed, improved & maintained (not necessarily annually), has berms, has authority to do so.

- 1) Improved & maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular & continuous use, 2) physical action taken to keep a road, 3) open to vehicle traffic.

Mechanical means: power machinery or hand tools with relatively regular and continuous use/vehicle use.

NOT a road if: established passage of vehicles-even if regular use, mechanical construction but no maintenance-unless no maintenance is necessary, road would be maintained if necessary

Purpose of a route doesn't dictate whether it is a road.

Dave Reinhardt asked “How do you look at county roads that aren't maintained? Valley County has lots of “county” roads that aren't maintained.”

Ron Poertner questioned, “Is this a new definition of roads? Is this universal?”

Definition is for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics only.

Will this be the first step before a WSA? No. There will be no more WSA's.

Ralph Knapp – Wilderness characteristics could change. They aren't cast in stone and will be looked at again someday.

FIELD TRIP – LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

RAC Members attending: Ron, Hugo, Mary, Ralph, Aart, Dave & Jim M.

Some members of the public drove their own vehicles and attended the tour as well.

BLM attendees: Chris, Kelly, Dan, Stan, Kaylene & Mark

DAY TWO – Thursday, September 19th, 2013

The meeting opened with Clive Rooney presenting flowers to Kaylene Patten from the Council for serving as the facilitator for the RAC since 1995.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mark Albers offered items of local interest in the Hi-Line District consisting of the Fort Belknap Water Rights Reserve Act. There are 3 classes of land included in the settlement. This is causing some opposition to the settlement bill. "Notch" lands are 14,000 acres, State lands 2,800 acres, with sub-marginal interspersed land.

An outfitter requested a permit for use of lands in the Sweet Grass Hills. An article was placed in the newspaper to garner comments from the public before determining whether or not the permit would be approved. We received 99 letters, as well as lots of comments and phone calls. Stanley Jaynes, Havre Field Office Manager, will make a decision in October.

Aart Dolman questioned Mark, "You said it's not a public vote. How do you determine whether to approve it or not?" Mark responded that we must decide if it will service the public need. Will it benefit a large portion of the public? Hugo Tureck said this is the first time he's seen a permit questioned like this. Mark replied that we had determined that this area has a great deal of interest. Dave Reinhardt asked if public input keeps BLM from being subject to a lawsuit. Mark responded that input helps as long as it's substantive comments.

TC access dam, in Valley County, is close to breaching. Clive Rooney asked where the dollars come from for these types of issues. Mark told him that we have a 1653 maintenance account for these costs.

January Dam, also in Valley County, is done. There are more on the list for maintenance. Dave Reinhardt explained that 1/3 of Valley County is BLM.

Great Falls office is doing lots of work supporting North Dakota. It's very difficult recruiting employees for the Dickinson Office due to no housing availability.

There are several staff members from the Great Falls O&G Field Office who worked with Miles City & Dickinson personnel to put on an Inspection and Enforcement Workshop in Dickinson, North Dakota on September 11th. They had over 200 personnel and 33 companies in attendance.

Aart Dolman ask, "What are concerns of the Federal Government regarding the Bakken?" Concerns voiced include water, downhole issues, surface...lots of different issues.

There is going to be an Environmental Stewardship Workshop held in February of 2014 at FT. Berthold with FWS, BIA & Army Corp.

Bright Note – Fidelity, a big operator, closed over 400 wells when prices went down and were too low for them to make money. In June 2013, they fired back up. The price is up 50%. It's a good sign having them come back online.

Mary Jones asked if the boom is coming this way? Industry and our people say no, we're just out on the edges of the development.

Aart Dolman inquired as to whether or not there are different rules for tribes. Mark answered, no, our rules apply to downhole support with BIA.

Stan Benes stated that the top 3 priorities in 2014 will be:

1. Greater Sage Grouse, 2. Lewistown RMP, and 3. Litigation.

Stan said he is proud of his staff. With the legal mandates, there is not much time for other projects. They are excellent professionals who want to do an excellent job. Stan had a question for the State Director from the staff. "With no raises, no awards, overtime, moving costs, full plates, etc. how do we stay upbeat and positive?"

Jaime replied that that was a hard question to answer. You often hear about federal employees being bashed and it is not deserved.

LITIGATION - 9th District Court Decisions

Montana Wilderness – this is an appeal of previous litigation. The court ruled in BLM's favor except for class III surveys. Surveys are being scheduled.

Western Watersheds vs. Abbey – Court upheld the RMP. Woodhawk EA violated NEPA by not having a "no grazing" alternative. Plan is being updated to include alternatives. Direction from the judge is forthcoming.

Buffalo Wallow – No right-of-way, four private property crossings. BLM land side is in prime sage grouse habitat. There is informal access only.

Mary Jones stated, "If the area was just left, it would be great for wildlife...not necessarily needed to be a fishery." Stan replied that the decision was made to breach and landscape it.

Access – Bullwhacker Road (See access sheet handout)

We thought we had prescriptive rights since 1912 on the road. We are considering a land exchange. Possible consideration of a new road – would give 60,000 acres back to the public. We are only considering road as an option.

Ron Poertner asked if the exchange would include checkerboard parcels or just large parcels. Stan said it would include several parcels.

Dana Darlington said there is access through Johnson's, Ervin Ridge to Gist cabin next to Cow Creek. Zane said we don't have legal access through Johnson's.

Stan said he had suggested dredging the river at Coal Banks, but his staff told him it would affect the pallid sturgeon.

Mike Kania offered that they are looking at the option of a new landing adjacent to the campsite.

Dana commented that the landowner was a good guy.

The Designated Federal Official for the RAC for the past six years, has been Stan Benes. This position will now be filled by Mark Albers. Mark expressed his appreciation to the group, continuing to say they

are invaluable for hearing the voice of the people and is very important. He is proud of our organization and what we get done.

Clive responded by saying he has had the opportunity to work with Stan and others at the BLM. It's a pleasure to work with BLM and how well people get along and have an investment in our relationship.

MONUMENT LEASES VACATED

Mike Kania gave a handout regarding oil & gas leasing in the Monument. The Monument held 43 leases in 2001, covering 42,800 acres. It has never been a big producing area. When the Monument was designated there was no more leasing. Leasing acreage is down to about 35,000 acres now. As leases are abandoned or expire, etc. they are returned back.

Aart asked if there was a contractual arrangement with the companies.

Mike replied that some had been traded, sold, etc. Some are small companies and some are large companies. History of the wells – earliest least was 1967. Shallow geology doesn't connect the wells. They are isolated, limited pockets. They are shallow wells of 1800-2500 feet. Future – majority of leases held by production will probably stay but maturing leases turned back.

Jim McCollum asked if companies are able to renew their lease. Mike answered, "The lease terminates if there is no use/production."

Mark stated that Northwestern Energy bought all of Devon's holdings, so there's a learning curve for them because they haven't been on the production end before.

Ron Poertner questioned, "Do you think if these gas companies drilled deeper, using fracking, they will produce?" It doesn't appear that would work in this area.

Hugo Tureck replied that the Rocky Mountain Front also has isolated pockets.

Jim McCollum said since there is no mechanical means of travel in the Monument, does that include game carts? There is an exclusion for a game cart.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY PROJECT

Shane Hershman, Administrative Officer for the Central Montana District, gave the status of the federal highway projects within the district. We maintain 350 miles of roads in the central zone.

Federal Lands Transportation Program is used for parks, refuge roads - BLM - \$30 million. Used for program administration and transportation planning.

Federal Lands Access Program - \$250 million, 80% funds go to states with $\geq 1.5\%$ public land and is distributed by formula. Montana received \$25 million. Montana's match is: 13.42%

Federal Highway Funds used for: Two Calf Road, Woodhawk Crossing, Half Moon Pass and 14 miles of pavement on Big Sandy road. Maiden Road is currently under construction - \$680,000. It is expected to be completed by November 15th.

RAC SubGroup for Lewistown RMP?

Geoff Beyersdorf explained that his vision of participation for the subgroup would be:

- 1) participate in scoping to identify issues, 2) come up with alternative development, 3) keeping current on status & informing the rest of the RAC.

Time invested would include 2-3 public meetings for the subgroup. It would be comprised of representation from all 3 categories and would be an opportunity to be far more engaged than just when RAC meets.

It was decided that there would be a brainstorming session with the RAC for the Lewistown RMP at the next RAC meeting. No commitment for subgroup – but commitment from the entire RAC to look at the RMP.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Friez displayed an award that was given by the Historic Preservation Commission in recognition of efforts celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act. Mary said it was for the good of the community and BLM as well. She worked with Zane Fulbright in 2012, Betty Westburg worked on Homestead Tour by car, Nancy Watts did work at the Library.

Jim McCollum asked about iron rangers for voluntary river fees. Two iron rangers were ordered and will be placed at Coal Banks & Judith. The State Director remarked, “The move toward fees is very likely with shrinking budgets, etc.”

A thank you gift and appreciation was given to Aart Dolman for his work on the RAC over the past 3 years.

HI-LINE RMP UPDATE

Brian Hockett, Planning & Environmental Coordinator, of the Havre Field Office presented an update on status of the Hi-Line RMP. Brian began by stating there are 8 counties included, from Glacier to Valley covering 2.4 million BLM surface acres. The comment period was held from March to June, held tribal consultations with 5 Reservations, held 5 public meetings with 134 people attending. There were approximately 2700 comments received. Subjects included oil & gas/minerals, travel, recreation, bison, greater sage grouse, lands with wilderness characteristics, black tailed prairie dogs and black footed ferrets.

The top 3 letters received were “form letters”. We received 2100 emails asking to protect lands with wilderness characteristics, 150 emails regarding being an active player to re-establish bison, and 115 saying we were under estimating the cost of hampering development.

Brian discussed the difference between “non-substantive comments” which are general comments, opinions, etc. VS. “substantive comments” which are those that require a response, i.e., questioning accuracy, methodology, adequacy, or represents new information, presents reasonable alternatives or causes changes or revisions in alternatives.

An example of a substantive comment received was, “On 3 plans out, there are 4 different buffers around leks in 4 different planning areas.” We also received new information on lands with wilderness

characteristics, questions regarding black tailed prairie dogs and black foot ferrets, and questions in regard to not carrying ACEC's forward.

Brian gave an overview of the Hi-Line RMP schedule: Reviewing comments, preparing preliminary proposed RMP/Final EIS and the WO Solicitor Review – Jan-April 2014.

Dave Reinhardt asked if the BLM considers comments outside the country. Yes, we do. Some may be from military bases. Jim McCollum stated that if they are substantive comments that we've overlooked something, I'd accept comments. Aart Dolman said, "We have a tourist industry. We shouldn't isolate their opinions." Ralph Knapp commented, "Outsiders bring fresh eyes." Hugo reminded everyone that our area is significant on an international level. A gentleman that completed a dissertation written before World War II was, at 79 years old, finally able to see Square Butte.

Dave Reinhardt asked how the BLM is going to decide on which Alternative to choose. Mark Albers replied that he will choose and Jamie will validate.

Jim McCollum mentioned that it's rare that agency decisions get overturned. These people are supposed to be the specialists. However, on B. Lake, 99% expressed a differing opinion and it was overturned.

Aart Dolman voiced that there is an appeals process. It's not to the agency's advantage to go against public opinion.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

- Update on Scoping Issues – LFO RMP
- RAC Brainstorming Issues for LFO-RMP
- DM Update
- Orientation of New Members
- Election of Officers
- Update on Litigations
- Update on Coal Banks
- Fees Update on River
- Lime Kiln Trail Recommendations
- Wood Hawk Repair
- Clive's Report on Chairpersons Meeting

Date: January 15-16, 2014 (Wed/Thurs)
Times: 10:00 (same)
Location: Great Falls (Interp. Center or FWP)

Work Plan – Rec fees, iron ranger going forward, RMP's, Field Trip, No RAC subgroup, Fed. Res. Water Rights, Monument Proclamation, Bullwhacker Road, District Manager Updates, No weeds or travel plan.

Future subject for RAC: Common ground between ranching community and state land exchange in Monument.